

10 May 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Colonel White

SUBJECT : Contemplated Merger of the GPO Plant in South Building with CIA Facilities

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1. On 7 May 1954 [] delivered a staff study on the above matter together with a letter to Congressman Jenner for Mr. Dulles' signature. At that time he briefed me as follows on background and developments to date.

2. Bob Lefebvre, Chief of the GPO Plant located in the basement of South Building, advised there is a very real possibility that this Plant may be moved to the main GPO Plant. As approximately 80 percent of the work done in the South Building Plant is for CIA, such a move would present a real problem. He also advised that this problem could be eliminated if the South Building Plant were merged with and operated by CIA. With Mr. Lefebvre carrying the ball, talks have been held with staff members of the Joint Committee on Printing. During these discussions Agency representatives expressed interest in such a merger on the basis of security, economy, and efficiency, as well as the problem of the possibility of the South Building Plant being moved. Agency representatives pointed out that before any definite commitment could be made, it was necessary to have detailed information about the personnel and equipment of the South Building Plant, the cost of the equipment, the possibility of the facilities being combined, and if so, if a building other than the present [] Plant would be necessary. To obtain this detailed information, an authorization to talk with and work with GPO is necessary. The staff study and the letter for Mr. Dulles' signature were prepared and submitted for this purpose.

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3. The study and the letter go further than this. The study recommends a formal request be made to the Joint Committee on Printing for the merger of the GPO South Building Plant with CIA facilities. The suggested letter also makes such a definite request, and its tone is that we have been considering such a merger for some time. Moreover, the matter has not been coordinated with or approved by Legislative Counsel or Security.

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4. Without going into the study itself, other than to say it contains no real discussion of the problem, I recommend its disapproval on the basis of a premature recommendation. I suggest the study be rewritten to come up with a recommendation expressing interest and a desire to work with GPO to obtain information necessary for a decision as to whether or not such a merger is feasible. The proposed letter as written also takes the approach we want this merger and request it. This should be rewritten to conform with the suggested recommendation for the staff study.

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